



MEDIA RELEASE
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MANCHESTER MAN SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON
FOR TWO ROBBERIES AND FEDERAL FIREARMS OFFENSES

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire Tom Colantuono, the Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge of the Boston Field Division Kenneth W. Kaiser, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Special Agent in Charge of the Boston Field Division William J. Hoover, Manchester Police Chief John Jaskolka, and Merrimack Police Chief William F. Mulligan announce that **RAYMOND BARR**, age 30, of Manchester, was sentenced in U.S. District Court on Friday October 14, 2005, to a total of twenty-five (25) years in federal prison for the April 23, 2004, robberies of the Sovereign Bank on Daniel Webster Highway in Merrimack and the Centrix Bank on Hooksett Road in Manchester. He was also sentenced on related federal firearms offenses.

At approximately 2:00 p.m. on April 23, 2004, the Merrimack High School received a bomb threat, causing a significant police and fire response. During the response, the Sovereign Bank, which is only minutes from the High School, was robbed at gunpoint. Approximately an hour later, the Centrix Bank in Manchester was also robbed at gunpoint by an assailant matching the description and wearing identical clothes as the assailant in the Sovereign Bank robbery. Police obtained photographs from the banks' security cameras to compare the two robbers. In addition, investigators were able to determine the source of the bomb threat call, which was made via a cellular phone later learned to be in Barr's possession at the time of the crime.

Approximately one week after the robberies, police received an anonymous tip that the robber was currently staying in a hotel room in Nashua. Police responded and spoke to the occupant of the room, who identified herself as an acquaintance of Barr. Although she denied that he was present at the hotel, Nashua Police arrested Barr on a nearby street as he was attempting to flee the hotel. During the subsequent search of the hotel room, police found the clothes used in the robberies, as well as a handgun and a sawed-off shotgun.

Barr was sentenced to a total of 216 months of concurrent sentences on each of the robberies, and on a charge of Armed Career Criminal in possession of a firearm. The sentencing court (Joseph DiClerico, Jr.) added to the sentence a consecutive term of 84 months because Barr used a firearm during the commission of one of the robberies. Thus, the total sentence was 300 months, or 25 years.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono said, “This case is a model example of the coordinated efforts of federal and local law enforcement. Multiple agencies were involved in the investigation of the armed robberies, all of whom pulled together, with the assistance of federal agencies, to solve the cases and bring this defendant to justice.”

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mark E. Howard.

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